IN THE CLAIMS

Please add newly presented claims 21-25. Please amend claims 1, 6, 11, and 16 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) In a video on demand system for supplying video data in response to a user request, the improvement comprising:

a. A plurality of video servers each capable of supplying video data to said user; ~~and~~

b. A memory for storage of said video data responsively coupled to each of said plurality of video servers; and

c. A multimedia application server responsively coupled to said ~~plurality of video servers~~ memory which receives said request from said user, spools said video data into said memory, and ~~directs~~ selects a particular one of said plurality of video servers to ~~supply~~ stream said video data from said memory to said user in response to said user request.

2. (Original) The video on demand system of claim 1 further comprising logic which selects said particular one of said plurality of video servers based upon said particular one of said plurality of video servers already having said video data loaded.

3. (Original) The video on demand system of claim 1 further comprising logic which selects said particular one of said plurality of video servers based upon which of said plurality of video servers is least utilized.

4. (Original) The video on demand system of claim 1 further comprising logic which selects said particular one of said plurality of video servers based upon which of said plurality of video servers has sufficient unused storage space.

5. (Original) The video on demand system of claim 1 further comprising logic which replaces a previous video program from said one of said plurality of video servers with said video data.

6. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

a. A video program request generated by a user;

b. A plurality of video servers each capable of streaming said video program to said user; ~~and~~

c. A memory for storing said video program responsively coupled to each of said plurality of video servers; and

d. A multimedia application server responsively coupled to said memory which receives said video program request from said user, spools said video program into said memory, and ~~directs~~ selects one of said plurality of video servers to ~~streaming~~

stream said video program to said user from said memory.

7. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 6 wherein said multimedia application server further comprises logic for selecting said one of said plurality of video servers if said one of said plurality of video servers has already loaded said video program.

8. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 6 wherein said multimedia server further comprises logic for selecting said one of said plurality of video servers if said one of said plurality of video servers is least busy.

9. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 6 wherein said multimedia application server further comprises a logic for selecting said one of said plurality of video servers if said one of said plurality of video servers has sufficient unused storage space.

10. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 6 wherein said multimedia application server further comprises logic which directs said one of said plurality of video servers to swap said video program for an existing video program.

11. (Currently Amended) A video on demand system comprising:

a. Storing means for temporarily storing a video program;

b. Receiving means for receiving a user request for ~~a~~ said video program and spooling said video program into said storing means;

~~b~~ c. Plurality of streaming means responsively coupled to said storing means for streaming said video program; and

~~c~~ d. Directing means responsively coupled to said receiving means and said plurality of streaming means for directing one of said plurality of streaming means to stream said video program to said user in response to said request.

12. (Original) A video on demand system according to claim 11 wherein said directing means further comprises means for selecting said one of said plurality of streaming means having said video program resident.

13. (Original) A video on demand system according to claim 11 wherein said directing means further comprises means for choosing said one of said plurality of streaming means having sufficient free storage to store said video program.

14. (Original) A video on demand system according to claim 11 wherein said directing means further comprises means for

identifying said one of said plurality of streaming means having a previous video program which may be removed to accommodate said video program.

15. (Original) A video on demand system according to claim 14 wherein said directing means further comprises means for determining that said one of said plurality of streaming means has sufficient capacity for streaming said video program.

16. (Currently Amended) A method of selecting one of a plurality of video servers for streaming a video program to a user comprising:

a. Receiving a message from said user requesting said video program at a multi-media application server; ~~and~~

b. Spooling said video program into a memory by said multi-media application server;

c. Selecting one of a plurality of video servers to stream said video program to said user from said memory.

17. (Original) A method according to claim 16 wherein said selecting step further comprises:

a. Determining which of said plurality of video servers already has said video program resident.

18. (Original) A method according to claim 16 wherein said selecting step further comprises:

a. Ascertaining which of said plurality of video servers has sufficient storage space to contain said video program.

19. (Original) A method according to claim 16 wherein said selecting step further comprises:

a. Directing said one of said plurality of video servers unload a previously loaded video program and load said video program.

20. (Original) A method according to claim 16 wherein said directing step further comprises:

a. Inhibiting said unloading of said previously loaded video program if the performance utilization of said previously loaded program is greater than the performance utilization of said video program.

21. (New) An apparatus for providing video on demand programming to a plurality of users comprising:

a. A video program request generated by one of said plurality of users;

b. A plurality of video servers each capable of streaming said video program to said one of said plurality of users;

c. A memory for storing said video program responsively coupled to each of said plurality of video servers; and

d. A multimedia application server responsively coupled to said memory which receives said video program request directly from said one of said plurality of users, spools said video program into said memory, and selects one of said plurality of video servers to stream said video program to said one of said plurality of users from said memory.

22. (New) An apparatus according to claim 21 wherein said multimedia application server further comprises logic for selecting said one of said plurality of video servers if said one of said plurality of video servers has already loaded said video program.

23. (New) An apparatus according to claim 22 wherein said multimedia server further comprises logic for selecting said one of said plurality of video servers if said one of said plurality of video servers is least busy of said plurality of video servers.

24. (New) An apparatus according to claim 23 wherein said multimedia application server further comprises a logic for selecting said one of said plurality of video servers if said one

of said plurality of video servers has sufficient unused storage space.

25. (New) An apparatus according to claim 24 wherein said multimedia application server further comprises logic which directs said one of said plurality of video servers to swap said video program for an existing video program.